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PROGRAM ABC World News Tonight

STATION WJLA-TV
ABC News

DATE April 21, 1982 7:00 P.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Deputy Director of the CIA Resigns

FRANK REYNOLDS: A major change tonight in the American intelligence community. The White House announced that Admiral Bobby Inman, Deputy Director of the CIA, has resigned. Inman maintains his retirement was long planned. But there is more to the story. And we have this report from White House correspondent Sam Donaldson.

SAM DONALDSON: The White House has been sitting on Admiral Inman's letter of resignation since March 22nd. That's the day it's dated. In it, the Admiral recalls for the President that he reluctantly accepted the job of Deputy Director of Central Intelligence in the first place. And he says, pointedly, that he's requesting retirement from military service because he doesn't expect to get another assignment. And, in fact, the President doesn't offer him one in his "Dear Bob" letter accepting the resignation with deep regrets.

The fact is, Admiral Inman clearly opposed much of the Reagan Administration's push for renewed CIA surveillance of American citizens and for its push for relaxed oversight of CIA activities. The Reagan Administration, in turn, never really looked at Admiral Inman as one of its team players. Last year, when Senator Goldwater and others tried to force CIA Director Casey out, the White House quietly passed word that Inman would never succeed Casey, no matter what.

So Inman, who was widely respected in the intelligence community, both here and overseas, and by journalists who cover intelligence activities, has resigned. His letter of resignation, dated March 22nd, finally released because, according to Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes, Inman wanted it out.

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